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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## U. S. Crops About Average This Year

Crop prospects for the country as a whole, as of June 1, are about the same as the 10-year average, though well below last year. More idle cropland than last year. Season also still retarded, although significant recovery was made during the past month.

### Prospects By Regions and States Within Regions

The North and South Atlantic States have better than average prospects. South Central States, about average. North Central and Western States are slightly below average. By individual States within regions, prospects are uniformly good in all South Atlantic States except South Carolina and Georgia. Of the South Central States, only Kentucky and Tennessee have good prospects, with others only fair and western parts of Oklahoma and Texas poor. Of the Western States, prospects are very poor in New Mexico and southeastern Colorado but mostly good in other States of the region.

### Spring Wheat Crop Smallest in 10 Years

Spring wheat prospects have been lowered by inability to get the crop seeded at usual dates in the North. Seeding in spring wheat area, two weeks to a month late. Spring wheat production is indicated at 234 million bushels, smaller by 14 percent than the 10-year average and down 4 percent from last year's crop. Present indications make this year's spring wheat crop the smallest in 10 years.

### Winter Wheat Prospects Improved During Past Month

Winter wheat prospects improved by 21 million bushels during the past month. Estimate for winter wheat is now 710 million bushels, compared with 902 million last year and 759 million for the '39-48 average.

### All-Wheat Estimate 944 Million Bushels

All wheat production is estimated at 944.5 million bushels, first crop in 7 years to fall short of a billion bushels. All wheat produced last year, 1.1 billion bushels; 10-year average, 1 billion bushels.

### Outlook for Corn Crop Favorable

Corn planting was nearly completed by June 1, rapid progress having been made in the latter part of May. Fields generally were well prepared. Stands were good and prospects for the corn crop were generally favorable. (First official forecast of 1950 corn production will be made on July 11.)

### Big Crop of Oats Forecast

Oats crop, estimated at about 1.4 billion bushels, is 4 percent above production last year and well above the 10-year average of nearly 1.3 billion bushels. Planted acreage is near record high and indicated yield is almost as high as both last year and average.

### Barley Crop Bigger Than Last Year

The barley crop, estimated at 279 million bushels, compares with 238 million bushels last year, and 316 million bushels in '48. Average production, 311 million bushels.

### Rye Estimate Tops Last Year's Crop

Boosted by favorable growing conditions in May, the rye crop is now forecast at 22.4 million bushels, exceeding the forecast made last month by 1.5 million bushels. Estimate also well ahead of last year's crop. Last year's production, 18.7 million; 10-year average, 32.2 million bushels. Acreage for harvest is larger than last year by 13 percent, but smaller than average by 34 percent.

### Hay Prospects Improve--Near Average Crop Likely

Hay prospects have improved since last month. Yield per acre may be about average. Condition at 82 percent compares with 86 a year ago. A total production of 97 million tons is expected if farmers harvest from intended acreage. This would be 3 million tons less than average.

## Pastures Have Improved--Poor in Some Areas

Pastures are about average, having improved rapidly past month in most areas. Condition 83, average 83. Super condition last year at this time 88. Pastures are especially poor in New Mexico and Colorado. Backward also in most of the Rocky Mountain area.

### Range Pastures Still Below Average

Range pastures, still below average in June, showed more than seasonal increase. Condition was poorest in dry portions of the Southwest and southern Mountain States from which some movement of cattle is occurring.

### May Milk Production Off From Year Ago

For the first time in nearly 2 years, monthly milk production and milk per cow have fallen below levels of the same month of the previous year. In May, increases were less than usual for the time of year, owing to slow development of pastures. But pastures increased rapidly in late May and the seasonal peak in production will likely come later this year than normal. Production in May, 11,981,000,000 pounds; year ago, 12,069,000,000; 10-year average, 11,768,000,000 pounds. In some States production was record high in May--for instance in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and California.

### Total Milk Produced January Through May Up

Milk production first 5 months totals 50.3 billion pounds, compared with 49 billion pounds same period last year and 47.9 billion 10-year average for the same period.

### Low Milk Production Per Capita in May

Population has increased faster than milk. Production per capita in May averaged only 2.55 pounds per day, lowest on record.

### High Egg Production Last Month--Also First 5 Months

Egg production in May was above last year in all areas of the country. U. S. flocks laid 6.1 billion eggs in May, up from a year earlier and from 10-year average by 5 percent. Production first 5 months totals 29.3 billion eggs, second largest for this period since records began in 1924. Production same period last year, 27.5 billion; 10-year average, 25.8 billion eggs. Eggs laid per hen in May averaged nearly the same as year earlier. Rate of lay first 5 months was also nearly same as year ago. Increased production was due to increase in number of hens. There were 5 percent more layers in May than a year earlier, and 2 percent more than average.

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	April 15 1950	May 15 1950	May 15 1950
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.01	2.04	2.19
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.26	1.34	1.59
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.6	10.7	11.9
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	28.74	29.24	30.75
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	1.34	1.28	1.72
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	15.60	18.50	19.10
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	21.80	23.20	17.20
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	24.60	25.70	19.40
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	23.80	24.60	19.00
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 61.6	1/ 64.0	70.4
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 3.84	1/ 3.87	4.39
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	23.3	22.5	29.0
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 36.2	1/ 34.4	50.6

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.  
2/ Preliminary.

## Egg and Chicken Prices Down From Year Ago

Farmers averaged 29.6 cents dozen for eggs in mid-May compared with last year's record May price of 43.4 cents. Chicken prices averaged 22.5 cents pound, live-weight, compared with 28.2 cents year ago.

## Turkey Prices Off Nearly 10 Cents a Pound

Live turkeys brought farmers 27.4 cents pound compared with 36.9 cents in mid-May last year. U. S. storage stocks May 1 were 92 million pounds, a decrease from April of 21 million pounds.

## Poultry Feeding Less Favorable Than Year Ago

Increased feed costs and sharply lower prices for eggs, chicken and turkey caused the feed-price relationship in May to be less favorable than a year ago. Poultry ration cost \$3.62 per 100 pounds compared with \$3.51 a year ago.

## Few New Changes in Fruit Prospects

Fruit prospects have changed very little since last month except for peaches which are now somewhat less favorable. Total production of deciduous fruits is indicated to be only a little less than average. Apples will be at least average. Pears will be moderately below average, but almost a fourth less than last year. Grapes will be about average, and about same as last year; sour cherries a record crop, and sweet cherries below average. Plums will be above average. Prunes are estimated below average in California and very short in the Northwest. Apricots are below average, but a little above last year. Supplies of California Valencia oranges for summer markets will be about the same as last year. Prospects for new crop citrus are satisfactory in most areas.

## U. S. Peach Crop Fourth Smaller Than Last Year

U. S. peach crop is forecast at 56 million bushels--three-fourths of last year's production and four-fifths of average. Peach crop is short most everywhere except in California. There the canning crop is about a third above average. Other exceptions are the Northeast where the peach crop is about average and Michigan and Missouri where it is slightly above average. In the 10 Southern peach States, only 5.9 million bushels are now forecast. This is less than half of last year's small crop, and only about one-third of an average crop. Crop is especially short in Georgia and the Carolinas.

## Orange Production Up 3 Percent From Last Year

U. S. orange crop (1949-50 season) is now estimated at 102 million boxes--3 percent more than last season and 9 percent more than average. Available for use after June 1 were about 28 million boxes (23½ million California Valencias and 4½ million Florida Valencias). This compares with the 26 million boxes used last year after June 1 (23 million California Valencias and 3 million Florida Valencias).

## Grapefruit Production Off 21 Percent From Last Season

The estimated 36-million boxes of grapefruit is 21 percent less than the 1948-49 crop and 28 percent less than average. Available after June 1 were 3.3 million boxes, including 1.3 million boxes in California and 2 million in Florida. A year ago 2 million boxes were used after June 1 (1.2 million boxes in California and .8 million boxes in Florida).

## More Lemons Than Last Year, But Below Average Crop

California lemons are estimated at 10 million boxes, up 3 percent from last season's short crop but down 23 percent from average production.

## Early Potatoes, Better Than Average Condition

Early potatoes are in better than average condition. At 83, the condition is only 3 points below the highest June 1 condition of record. In the South the late spring crop is moving to market later than usual. Harvest of the California crop is at the peak.

## Above Average Tonnage of Spring Vegetables

Spring vegetable tonnage will be about same as last year and about one-sixth more than average. Spring onion production is up substantially from last year. Increases also reported for spring watermelons, carrots and green peppers. Decreases are noted for spring cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbage and celery.

## More Summer Vegetables Also Than Average

For summer season vegetables, increases over last year are expected in tonnage of watermelons and cabbage; decreases in celery, tomato and lettuce crops. Overall summer season output will be about same as for last year, and about 8 percent above average.

## Higher Prices for Meat, Fibers, Soybeans and Corn

Increases in prices of meat animals, cotton, wool, soybeans, and corn mainly were responsible for pushing prices received to higher levels in May. Higher prices for both family-living and farm-production goods continued to boost the prices paid index, which is a little higher now than a year ago.

## Farmers' Prices in Upward Trend

Prices received by farmers generally have been rising. In mid-May they were nearly as high as a year ago. And they averaged higher by 6 percent than at the end of '49. Both prices received and prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes and wage rates) still are about 2½ times as much as they averaged in 1910 to 1914, the period upon which price indexes are based. The index of prices received in May was 247 compared with 241 in April; record high (in Jan. '49) was 306. Index of prices paid (including interest, taxes, wage rates) was 254, compared with 251 in April; record high (in June and July '48) was 262.

## Business Generally Continues Upward

Continued demand for farm products is supported by an upward movement in general business activity. Steel and motor vehicle output pushed toward new highs in May. Construction continues at record pace. And the wholesale price level, more or less stable since last summer, turned upward in April and continued to rise in May.

## Half-Year Farm Receipts About \$10.6 Billion

Cash receipts from farm marketings first half of this year are expected to total 10.6 billion dollars. This would be 9 percent less than for the same period last year. Volume of marketings is down a little and prices for the full half year will average about 6 percent lower than for the same period last year.

## Receipts From Livestock Down Only a Little

Receipts to farmers from livestock during the January-June period declined very little from a year ago, except from poultry and eggs which show a drop of 20 percent. Receipts from meat animals may be down about 4 percent for the period. Dairy receipts also will be slightly down--the larger marketings not entirely offsetting lower prices. Declines are expected from most other leading farm commodities except tobacco.

## Farm Employment Up Seasonally From April

Farm employment in May was up seasonally from April by 903 thousand workers. Total at work on farms in May was 11.5 million. This compares with 10.6 million in April and 11.9 million in May last year. Farm family workers increased last month about 400 thousand (from 8.7 million in late April to 9.1 million in late May). Hired workers same period increased half a million (from 1.9 million to 2.4 million).

## National Employment Up--Now Nearly 60 Million

Civilians at work in the U. S. in May totaled 59.7 million. This was an increase of 1 million workers from the 58.7 million at work in April. Employment in May a year ago, and in May two years ago, was also 58.7 million. Unemployed in May totaled 3.1 million, compared with 3.5 million in April and 4.1 million in March.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	May 1950
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14= 100	247
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	254
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	97
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	1/ 249
Retail prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	2/ 254
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	3/ 427
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	4/ 493
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-May 1949	Jan.-May 1950
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	49.1	50.3
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	27.5	29.3
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	5/ 2291	5/ 2216
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) ..	5/ 177	5/ 180
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) .....	5/ 3357	5/ 3534
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	5/ 6037	5/ 6130
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ April figure.		
3/ April 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ March figure		
5/ Jan.-April under Federal inspection		